

AMS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

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USDA PESTICIDE DATA PROGRAM TO RELEASE 2001 DATA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14, 2003 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service today announced that the *Pesticide Data Program Annual Summary, Calendar Year 2001* and the 2001 data are available via the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/science/pdp/download.htm>. Printed copies of the 2001 Annual Summary will be available in mid-March. AMS is posting the summary and the data in advance of publication to make it available to stakeholders.

The Pesticide Data Program (PDP) provides statistically reliable data on pesticide residues detected in selected foods. PDP has tested over 50 commodities including fresh and processed fruit and vegetables, grains, milk, beef and poultry since the program was initiated in 1991. Testing of finished drinking water began in 2001.

PDP data are extremely valuable to consumers, food processors, pesticide producers and American farmers. In addition, these data benefit crop protection for American agriculture. PDP focuses on children's foods in response to the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act, provides critical realistic data for Environmental Protection Agency assessments of dietary exposure to pesticide residues, and these data are used to facilitate global trade of American agricultural products.

In 2001, the PDP analyzed a total of 12,264 food and drinking water samples. The commodities in the 2001 survey included: 15 fresh fruit and vegetables (apples, bananas, broccoli, carrots, celery, cherries, grapes, green beans, lettuce, mushrooms, nectarines, oranges, peaches, pineapples and potatoes); 3 processed commodities (canned sweet peas, canned sweet corn and tomato paste); as well as milled rice, poultry and beef. Also, in 2001, PDP initiated a survey of drinking water to evaluate potential exposure to pesticide residues through drinking water consumption. Drinking water samples were collected from community water systems in California and New York.

In 2002, PDP analyzed more than 12,000 samples including: 16 fresh fruit and vegetables (apples, asparagus, bananas, broccoli, carrots, celery, cucumbers, grapes, mushrooms, onions, oranges, peaches, peppers, pineapples, potatoes and spinach); 7 processed commodities (apple juice, apple sauce, frozen and canned sweet corn, frozen and canned peas, and pear juice concentrate); 2 grain products (barley and rice); and beef. The drinking water survey was expanded to sites in Colorado, Kansas and Texas.

The on-going 2003 PDP survey includes: nine fresh fruit and vegetables (apples, asparagus, cucumbers, mushrooms, onions, peppers, spinach, sweet potatoes and tomatoes); six processed commodities (butter, canned green beans, pear juice concentrate, canned peaches, canned and frozen sweet peas, and canned and frozen sweet corn); two grain products (barley and wheat flour); plus the drinking water survey.

Congress approved implementation of PDP in January 1991 to improve the quality and quantity of information available on chemical residues in domestically produced and imported food. PDP provides the most comprehensive database available on actual residue levels of pesticides found in the U.S. food supply. Access to this information enables federal and state agencies, as well as national, international, industry, commodity, consumer and environmental groups, to realistically evaluate pesticide issues.

Printed copies of the 2001 PDP Annual Summary can be obtained by writing to the Monitoring Programs Office, Science and Technology, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, 8609 Sudley Road, Suite 206, Manassas, VA 20110; by faxing (703) 369-0678; by calling (703) 330-2300, extension 10; or by submitting an e-mail request to: amsmpo.data@usda.gov.